FORT WAYNE — A powerful message of mercy and forgiveness was witnessed by more than 800 women from throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the Arise Women’s conference on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The conference, titled “Offer Forgiveness and Receive Peace,” was sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization and cosponsored by Redeemer Radio AM 1450. It enjoyed a new and larger venue for its faith-filled audience at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum this year.

The Arise conference, in its second year, began with a special Mass of Holy Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who wore a chasuble depicting Mary of Czestochowa. In his homily, Bishop Rhoades reflected on the mercy of God and how Jesus reveals that message in the Gospels.

“The message of divine mercy is at the heart of the Gospel which our world so desperately needs to hear,” Bishop Rhoades said. “This is the message which our speakers today will share with us.”

Bishop Rhoades reminded the rapt audience that “We honor Mary today as the Mother of Him who was Mercy Incarnate. She has given to the world Mercy Himself and she shares in this attribute of her Son. She teaches us the gracious love and mercy of her Immaculee Ilibagiza, 1994 Rwandan genocide survivor and author of “Left To Tell,” spoke at the Arise Women’s Conference held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne on Sept. 24. Over 800 women were inspired by her message of forgiveness.

Background of Brother John R. Paige, CSC

Before being named president of Holy Cross College, Brother John Paige had been vicar and first general assistant of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Rome, Italy. Prior to that, he was an associate professor of education and dean of the School of Education at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Texas.

Brother John also has been principal and chief executive officer of Notre Dame High School, West Haven, Conn., and president and chief executive officer at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md. He has served on the faculty of Holy Cross Novitiate in Valatie, N.Y., and was a member of the formation for ministry faculty for the Diocese of Albany, N.Y.

A 1968 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Brother John also holds masters degrees in mathematics and applied theology and a doctorate in education policy and leadership.

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Brother John R. Paige was inaugurated on Sept. 23 as the fourth president of Holy Cross College. Founded in 1966 by the Brothers of Holy Cross, the college has grown from a two-year college to a four-year liberal arts college with 500 students.

Brother John began his duties as college president in January, but he was formally installed in the 2 p.m. Friday ceremony in the college’s Pfeil Center. The formal installation was preceded by a special Mass at 10 a.m. in St. Joseph Chapel, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as the main celebrant. Holy Cross Father Richard V. Warner, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, was the homilist, and 31 Holy Cross priests concelebrated the Mass. The large chapel was nearly filled by the college’s friends, students, faculty, benefactors, and Holy Cross brothers and sisters.

During the Mass, Brother John and the entire Holy Cross theology faculty entered the sanctuary and recited the Profession of Faith. Brother John then recited and signed the Oath of Fidelity before Bishop Rhoades.

In an interview prior to the inauguration, Brother John told Today’s Catholic that canon law requires anyone who takes over responsibility of an apostolate in the name of the Church to make an Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith in front of the bishop, and this is oftentimes done in private.

“Since the bishop would be presiding at our inauguration Mass, and the superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross would be the homilist, I said to the bishop: ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if I made my public Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity during that Mass?’” Brother John explained.
Blessings upon Brother John Paige, CSC, and Holy Cross College!

By Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

On Friday, September 23rd, I celebrated the Inaugural Mass on the day of the inauguration of Holy Cross Brother John R. Paige as the fourth president of Holy Cross College, Notre Dame. It was a beautiful liturgy attended by Brothers, Priests, and Sisters of Holy Cross; trustees, faculty, administration, staff, and students of Holy Cross College; friends and benefactors of the College; representatives of other colleges and universities and of the community; and family and friends of Brother John.

I have gotten to know Brother John the past several months since his arrival at Holy Cross College last January. It is a joy to welcome him to our diocese and to support him in his leadership of this wonderful liberal arts Catholic college, located near Saint Mary’s College and the University of Notre Dame. Brother John has a highly accomplished career in Catholic education. Most recently, he served in Rome as Vicar General of the Congregation of Holy Cross. I am impressed not only by his excellent educational credentials, but by his strong commitment to the Catholic identity and mission of Holy Cross College.

During the Inaugural Mass, Brother John led the whole theology faculty of Holy Cross College in making the Profession of Faith, a clear visible and public affirmation of adherence to the Catholic faith. Further, as required by the Church, Brother John took the Oath of Fidelity on assuming the office of President of Holy Cross College, an office he exercises in the name of the Church. He promised to always preserve communion with the Catholic Church in his words and actions.

When the members of the theology faculty of Holy Cross College came forward to make the profession of faith, each carried with him or her an icon of a Doctor of the Church whom each personally chose as “favorite” theologians and to invoke their intercession. I list here the Doctors of the Church who inspire the theology faculty of Holy Cross College and the commitment associated with each:

Through the intercession of Saint Anselm, we will commit ourselves to search for truth and apply that truth to the service of humanity.

Through the intercession of Saint Jerome, we will help our students to see in Scripture that God speaks through human beings to proclaim a message of salvation.

Through the intercession of Saint Thomas Aquinas, we will foster rigorous theological investigation in the pursuit of truth according to the teachings of the Church, for the glory of God.

Through the intercession of Saint Catherine of Siena, we will encourage our students not only to know God, but to worship God through prayer and the Sacraments.

Through the intercession of Saint Thérèse, we will guide our students to find God in the ordinary moments of daily life.

Through the intercession of Saint Gregory the Great, we will attempt to teach the faith, make it credible to human reason, and embody it in our lives.

As I heard Brother John invoke the intercession of these saints and as I witnessed his faith and the theology faculty’s profession of faith, I thanked God for their witness and for their strong commitment to the Catholic mission of Holy Cross College. I have seen that commitment evident also in the rest of the faculty, staff, and administration of Holy Cross College. It is an institution that is proud of its identity and clear in its mission. I encourage our high school students and their parents who are searching for a strong liberal arts Catholic college to consider Holy Cross, right here in our own diocese. I am grateful for the strong and close collaboration between Holy Cross College and our diocese.

Brothers. After Communion, I spoke about Saint Joseph as a great model and intercessor for Brother John and for Holy Cross College.

Like his spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph was a man of great faith and trust in God. After hearing God’s message through an angel in a dream, Saint Joseph arose and did as the Lord commanded him. Though we have no spoken words of Saint Joseph recorded in the Scriptures, his very silence is eloquent. He acted in faith. He did as the Lord asked him. He took Mary as his wife. He lived his great voca- tion as faithful and loving husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. He watched over and pro- tected the Holy Family. His obedience of faith is a model for the whole Church. He is, in fact, the patron saint of the universal Church.

Saint Joseph shared the same attitude of faith and obedience that Mary expressed in her words at the Annunciation: I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word. Joseph said those words too, perhaps not out loud, but certainly in his heart: I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word. I encouraged Brother John, as he begins his service as president of Holy Cross College, to meditate on those words often and to turn to Saint Joseph for his intercession. Saint Andre, the first saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross, has taught us all to do so.

May God bless Brother John in his ministry of leadership at Holy Cross College! May the Lord bless the whole Holy Cross College community through Brother John’s example of faith, his dedication to the Catholic mission, and his skills as an educator! How blessed we are to have Holy Cross College in our diocese! Congratulations, Brother John, on your inaugu- ration!
Report abuse

It remains important for our Church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. To abuse a child is a sin. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the Protection of Children and Young People. These can be reviewed on the diocese’s website, www.dioceseswb.org under “Safe Environment.”

If you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you know was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was a priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, (260) 399-1458, e-mail: mrglowaski@dioceseswb.org, or Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, or at (260) 399-1419, e-mail: mraatz@dioceseswb.org. The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who claim to have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

Permanence importante para nuestra Iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes adultos de los actos maléficos del abuso. Abusar a un niño es pecado. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend permanece comprometida en mantener y seguir sus directrices, políticas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la Protección de Niños/as y Personas Jóvenes. Esto se puede observar en la página cibermática de la Diócesis, www.dioceseswb.org bajo la sección de Ambiente Seguro “Safe Environment.”

Si usted tiene razón para creer que un niño puede ser víctima de abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven por un adulto, lo animamos a que notifique las autoridades civiles apropiadas de ese abuso. También, si el alegado abusador es o fue un sacerdote o diácono de la Iglesia Católica, lo animamos contactar a Mary Glowaski, Coordinadora de Asistencia de Víctimas, (260)-399-1458, correo electrónico: mrglowaski@dioceseswb.org, o al Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, Vicario General de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne - South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, o al (260) 399-1419, correo electrónico: mraatz@dioceseswb.org. La Diócesis esta comprometida en ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y dar tranquilidad a aquellos quienes reclaman haber sufrido daño como resultado de tal abuso.

Pope accepts resignation of Indianapolis archbishop for health reasons

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis for health reasons.

The archbishop is 73 years old, two years younger than the age at which bishops are required by canon law to turn in their resignation to the pope.

Speaking from a wheelchair to which he has been confined since a March stroke, Archbishop Buechlein told a gathering of archdiocesan staff and reporters at archdiocesan headquarters Sept. 21 that he planned to return to his roots as a Benedictine monk at St. Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana as soon as possible.

“I’m not quitting,” he told the audience, saying he planned to continue serving the Church and the archdiocese in any way he could.

Archbishop Buechlein who joined the Benedictine order in 1963, has headed the Indianapolis Archdiocese since 1992. Prior to that he was bishop of Memphis, Tenn., for five years.

“It was emotional when I left Memphis 19 years ago and it’s the same here,” the archbishop said, choking back tears. “I leave with fond memories.”

Over the past three years, he has suffered a series of health problems. In March of this year, he suffered a mild stroke. In 2009, Archbishop Buechlein had undergone replacement surgery and in 2010, he had surgery to remove a benign tumor from his stomach.

In 2008, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma and underwent a successful course of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Orthodox Bishop Christopher J. Coyne was named apostolic administrator of the archdiocese by the pope until a permanent successor is named by the Vatican.

Archbishop Buechlein said he had been encouraged to write his resignation to the pope as soon as possible.

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In Germany, pope says godlessness poses new risks for society

BY JOHN THAVIS

FREIBURG, Germany (CNS) — On a four-day visit to Germany, Pope Benedict XVI warned that godlessness and religious indifference were undermining the moral foundations of society and leaving its weakest members exposed to new risks.

He repeatedly mentioned the duty to protect the unborn, and proposed this as an area where Catholics and non-Catholics can work together and help resist ethical erosion.

The pope, making his first official state visit to his homeland, said after arriving Sept. 22 that he had come “to meet people and to speak about God.”

He took that message to the country’s political leaders, to the Church’s ecumenical partners, to the Catholic faithful and, through the mass media, to the German people.

The 84-year-old pope at times looked tired during the heavy program of events, but generally held up well. He beamed when enthusiastic Catholics in central and southern Germany chanted his name and waved banners with the trip’s slogan, “Where there is God, there is a future.”

When the pope stepped off his plane in Berlin, the German capital, he was greeted by President Christian Wulff and Chancellor Angela Merkel. The pope smiled as a boy and a girl presented him with a bouquet of flowers, and cannons boomed out a 21-gun salute.

At a welcoming ceremony at the presidential Bellevue Palace in Berlin, the pope strongly defended the Church’s voice in public affairs and said that to dismiss religious values as irrelevant would “dismember our culture.”

Wulff, in his own speech to the pope, agreed that the Church’s message is needed in modern society. But the president, a 52-year-old Catholic who is divorced and civilly remarried, added that the Church, too, is challenged by important questions today: “How compassionately will it treat points of rupture in our culture? How will it approach points of rupture in its own history or the wrongdoing of members of its clergy?”

The pope’s main event in Berlin was his speech to the German parliament, the first time he has addressed a legislative body. Although dozens of parliamentarians boycotted the event, he received a standing ovation from the assembly.

The pope’s speech, philosophical in tone, argued that belief in God was the foundation for Western progress in law, social justice and human rights through the centuries.

Germany’s Nazi past, he said, illustrates that without justice, the state becomes “a highly organized band of robbers, capable of threatening the whole world and driving it to the abyss.”

Today, he said, with unprecedented opportunities to manipulate human beings, the threat is even more dramatic. He pointed to Germany’s ecology movement as a step in the right direction, but said an “ecology of man” was needed to protect human dignity.

The pope later met with Jewish representatives and recalled the Nazi “reign of terror” in his homeland, saying it showed what people are capable of when they deny God.

“The supposedly ‘almontr’ Adolf Hitler was a pagan idol, who wanted to take the place of the biblical Creator and Father of all men,” he said.

Celebrating Mass in Berlin’s Olympic Stadium for 70,000 people, the pope appealed for a better understanding of the Church, one that goes beyond current controversies and the failings of its members.

On the plane carrying him from Rome, the pope told reporters he understood the feelings of German Catholics who have left the Church because of revelations about clerical sex abuse, but he urged them to work against such crimes “on the inside.”

The pope later met with five sex-abuse victims in Erfurt, during an encounter that the Vatican said left the pontiff “moved and deeply shaken.”

The pope presided over major ecumenical events Sept. 23 in Erfurt, the town where Martin Luther was ordained and site of an Augustinian monastery where he lived for several years. Meeting with Lutheran leaders, the pope prayed for Christian unity and said ecumenism today faces threats from both secularization and Christian fundamentalism.

PAUL, PAGE 5
Son and she intercedes for us with the merciful love of a mother for her children.”

Those words were brought to life in the inspiring account shared by the day’s first speaker, Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza, whose DVD and detailed personal testimony spoke of the traumatic events that took place in 1994 when she and seven other women went into hiding in the cramped bathroom of a pastor’s home in Rwanda in an attempt to escape death. After 91 painstaking days she was able to escape and subsequently learned that most of her family were among the close to a million people who had been brutally murdered by Hutu extremists. In her powerful testimony, the passionate mother of two spoke of the stringent process of deepening her prayer life that culminated in her decision to forgive the man who murdered her mother and brother.

“The rosary brought me to see the grace of forgiveness,” said Ilibagiza humbly, admiring her deep fear of and anger toward the militia men.

Over time, as she meditated on Christ’s passion, she realized that the murderers were “blinded by hatred and had clouded judgment.” She came to understand that God is the Father of all and said, “If you need mercy — why not the killer? Forgiveness brings peace and freedom.”

She went on to describe how she became an author and speaker “Left to Tell; Discovering and rebuilding her life.” Her enthusiasm and humor accompanied many ceremonies approved Marian site in Africa. Kibeho is the first Vatican-recognized Marian site in Africa. The powerful message of love and mercy was then performed on stage and in the audience as Ilibagiza asked the women of the conference to come to their feet and dance with her to music ofOur Lady of Kibeho was among the close to a million people who had been brutally murdered by Hutu extremists. In her powerful testimony, the passionate mother of two spoke of the stringent process of deepening her prayer life that culminated in her decision to forgive the man who murdered her mother and brother.

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Fight against federal law will undermine marriage, says archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, told President Barack Obama in a Sept. 20 letter that his administration’s fight against the Defense of Marriage Act will undermine marriage and create a serious breach of church-state relations. The law, known as DOMA, defines marriage as between one man and one woman. “It is especially wrong and unfair to equate opposition to redefining marriage with either intentional or willfully ignorant racial discrimination, as your administration insists on doing,” the archbishop said. The text of his letter was released late Sept. 21 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. There was no immediate response from the White House to a Sept. 22 request from Catholic News Service for comment on the archbishop’s letter.

Archbishop Dolan underscored the Church’s position recognizing “the immeasurable personal dignity and equal worth of all individuals, including those with same-sex attraction” and said “we reject all hatred and unjust treatment against any person.” But he called for dialogue with the president on the Defense of Marriage Act and the “definition of marriage as the union of a man and a woman.” The USCCB leader wrote: “I am convinced that the door to a dialogue that is strong enough to endure even serious and fundamental disagreements can and must remain open, and I believe that you desire the same.” He predicted that the administration’s actions in relation to the Defense of Marriage Act would “provoke a national conflict between church and state of enormous proportions and to the detriment of both institutions.”

Tribunal studies healing attributed to intercession of Archbishop Sheen

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — That James Fulton Engstrom celebrated his first birthday Sept. 16 is amazing. In fact, some would call his life a miracle. Considered stillborn one year ago after his mother’s healthy pregnancy and “a beautiful, short labor,” James was without a pulse for the first 61 minutes of his life. It was only when doctors at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria were ready to call the time of death that his little heart was able to strike. According to diocesan officials, who were Msgr. Gray cannot say. But since the Enstroms have shared their story widely, he said the general details could be made public.

Phoenix Diocese to adopt new norms for Communion cup

PHOENIX (CNS) — Plans are under way in the Diocese of Phoenix to implement new local norms for the distribution of holy Communion. As a result, the wine that becomes Jesus’ blood at consecration will not be offered at every Sunday Mass, but instead will be reserved for special occasions, left to the determination of each parish pastor. The change will bring local Catholic celebration of the Eucharist into union with the practice of the faithful around the world, according to diocesan officials, who said receiving Communion under both kinds is uncommon in most countries. “Many people don’t realize that we’ve had experimen-

da in Phoenix in 2007. In addition to Bishop Jenky and Ambrosi, others sworn in included Msgr. Jason Gray, a pastor and judi-
cial vicar of the diocesan marriage tribunal, who as episcopal delegate to the Sheen tribunal is responsible for guiding the process; and Dr. Louis Varela, a Houston family physician, who chairs the Sheen Foundation board and is the Sheen tribunal’s medical expert. The tribunal’s work takes place in secret, so there is much that Msgr. Gray cannot say. But since the Enstroms have shared their story widely, he said the general details could be made public.

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tal privileges,” said Father Kieran Kleczewski, executive director of the Phoenix diocesan Office of Worship. "We’re now under the same norms as the Church in the rest of the world." For Catholics in the United States, it will seem like a restriction, he said, but it’s an expansion for the rest of the world. Communion under both kinds should be offered on the occasions in which both kinds fur-

ter the sign of unity or are clearly a fuller expression of Christ’s presence, Father Kleczewski said. The Church teaches that Christ — body, blood, soul and divinity — is present fully in the bread form. He is also fully pres-

tent in the wine form. “It’s offered to a bride and groom at their wedding. Why? Because it’s a beautiful sign of Christ’s extinction in the sacrament of Marriage,” he said. “That’s why you would offer them the chalice as well as the host.”

Dolores Hope died at age 102; was supporter of numerous Catholic causes

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Dolores Hope, a lifelong Catholic who was the widow of comedian Bob Hope and an entertainer in her own right, died Sept. 19 at age 102 at her home in Toluca Lake outside of Los Angeles. A family spokesman said she died of natural causes. “Dolores Hope was a Catholic of deep and abiding faith, and her own spiritual journey was her highest priority,” Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said in a statement. “Her deep life in Christ was the spring board for her charitable giving to countless ministries, apostolates and works of mercy across the country and around the world. Both the entertainment world and the Church have lost a woman of profound faith, gifted musical talent and dedication to the betterment of peoples world-

wide,” he said. “The death of Dolores Hope leaves a huge void in Southern California.” With her husband, Mrs. Hope supported numerous Catholic causes over the years and continued to do so after his death in 2003. Among other efforts the couple were the benefactors of the Chapel of Our Lady of Hope in Pontmain, France, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. News reports said funeral services for Mrs. Hope would be private, followed by burial next to her husband at the Bob Hope Memorial Garden in the San Fernando Mission in Mission Hills. Mrs. Hope and her husband were longtime members of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in North Hollywood. But it wasn’t until 1996 that Bob Hope officially became a member of the Catholic Church. She and Bob had been married 69 years when he died July 27, 2003. Dolores was praised as an instrument in her husband’s baptism into the Church. “Dolores has always known the gift of faith is the greatest gift you give,” said Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, at a memorial Mass cele-

brated for Bob in August 2003 at the national shrine.

Campus ministries devise ways to sustain college students’ faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While a new study of evangelical college students finds that up to half of them can discontinue faith during college, Catholic campuses in campus minis-

try say that the findings are appli-
cable to Catholic college students as well. “Sticky Faith,” published Sept. 22 found that the drift away applied whether a student was living on campus or commuting from home, and that students were just as susceptible even if they were enrolled at a religiously affiliated school. Kara Powell, one of the study’s authors who teaches at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., told Catholic News Service that the first two weeks of school frequently determine whether a Christian student’s faith will be sustained during their undergradu-

ate years. “They’re in a world where there’s nobody they know,” Powell said. “It’s like a second junior high — experimenting with their identities. They’ll be one way one day and another way with a dif-

ferent group of people. There’s no context to their own personal group and their former peer group.” The transition made by students who were members of their local congrega-
tion’s youth ministry was examined by “Sticky Faith.” Powell said teens not involved in a church youth ministry were not examined. “Those surveys are probably skewed,” she said. “I have no reason to think other-

wise,” said Nick Cardilino, associate director of campus ministry at the Marianist-run University of Dayton, with 20 years in campus ministry at the Ohio Catholic college.

US group gives Vatican ways to put social encyclical into action

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A group of U.S. Catholic Latino business leaders presented Vatican officials detailed reflections on how laypeople can fulfill Pope Benedict XVI’s call to make today’s societies and economies more just. Four members of the San Antonio-based Catholic Association of Latino Leaders and Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez presented a written reflec-
tion, “Caritas in Veritate — Charity in Truth: Our Response in Faith,” for the 2010 Just Business Conference Sept. 22-23. The group was hoping to present a special white leather-bound copy of the booklet to Pope Benedict after his return from his Sept. 22-25 trip to Germany. The group presented red leather-bound copies of the booklet to the cardinals and archbishops who head the 200-member official Caritas foundations. Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presented Vatican officials copies of the booklet to the cardinals and archbishops who head the 200-member official Caritas foundations. Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presented Vatican officials copies of the booklet to the cardinals and archbishops who head the 200-member official Caritas foundations.

Campus ministries devise ways to sustain college students’ faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While a new study of evangelical college students finds that up to half of them can discontinue faith during college, Catholic campuses in campus ministry say that the findings are appli-
cable to Catholic college students as well. “Sticky Faith,” published Sept. 22 found that the drift away applied whether a student was living on campus or commuting from home, and that students were just as susceptible even if they were enrolled at a religiously affiliated school. Kara Powell, one of the study’s authors who teaches at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., told Catholic News Service that the first two weeks of school frequently determine whether a Christian student’s faith will be sustained during their undergradu-

ate years. “They’re in a world where there’s nobody they know,” Powell said. “It’s like a second junior high — experimenting with their identities. They’ll be one way one day and another way with a dif-

ferent group of people. There’s no context to their own personal group and their former peer group.” The transition made by students who were members of their local congrega-
tion’s youth ministry was examined by “Sticky Faith.” Powell said teens not involved in a church youth ministry were not examined. “Those surveys are probably skewed,” she said. “I have no reason to think other-

wise,” said Nick Cardilino, associate director of campus ministry at the Marianist-run University of Dayton, with 20 years in campus ministry at the Ohio Catholic college.

US group gives Vatican ways to put social encyclical into action

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A group of U.S. Catholic Latino business leaders presented Vatican officials detailed reflections on how laypeople can fulfill Pope Benedict XVI’s call to make today’s societies and economies more just. Four members of the San Antonio-based Catholic Association of Latino Leaders and Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez presented a written reflection, “Caritas in Veritate — Charity in Truth: Our Response in Faith,” for the 2010 Just Business Conference Sept. 22-23. The group was hoping to present a special white leather-bound copy of the booklet to Pope Benedict after his return from his Sept. 22-25 trip to Germany. The group presented red leather-bound copies of the booklet to the cardinals and archbishops who head the 200-member official Caritas foundations. Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presented Vatican officials copies of the booklet to the cardinals and archbishops who head the 200-member official Caritas foundations. Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, presented Vatican officials copies of the booklet to the cardinals and archbishops who head the 200-member official Caritas foundations.
BOY SCOUTS RECEIVE AD ALTARE DEI AWARD

The Ad Altare Dei program, for boys in seventh and eighth grade, is one of two of the highest religious awards offered by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend through Boy Scouts. The Ad Altare Dei award was presented to 11 boys from Troop 19, sponsored by St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne. Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated Mass on Sept. 25 at St. John the Baptist and distributed the religious awards after Mass. In the photo, from left, are Joe Berghoff, Chris Heiny, Luke Fabina, Joe Westropp, Tony Hickey, Gus Serrani, Anne Ulman, Christian Ulman, Sean Brouwer, John Hickey, Michael Hickey and Jacob Fabina.

Resource seminar to support unemployed

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center will present the program “Support Seminar for the Unemployed” on Friday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The seminar is for those who are unemployed and looking for a job, with the purpose of offering emotional support, as well as providing opportunities that will help clarify necessary skills, educational resources and practical strategies.

A number of local agencies will have staff members on hand who will be making presentations and hosting workshops to offer training and other informational opportunities.

Among the local agencies partnering with Victory Noll Center for the program are Work One, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, United Way of Huntington County, Huntington University, Pathfinder Services, Department of Family Resources, and Love, INC.

The seminar will be held at the Victory Noll Center, located at 1000 W. Park Dr. in Huntington. There is no cost for the program, but space is limited. Register by Oct. 3. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To register for the program, or for more information about the program or Victory Noll Center, contact the center at (260) 356-0028, ext. 174, victorynollcenter@olvm.org or visit www.olvm.org/vncenter.html.

Heart of a Child Award to be given to Martin’s Supermarkets

SOUTH BEND — The Christ Child Society of South Bend has announced that Martin’s Supermarkets has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the Christ Child Society’s Heart of a Child Award. The award will be presented at the first annual Christ Child Society Dinner and Auction, titled “Let Light Shine,” on Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Gillespie Center located in the Hilton Garden Inn, South Bend. The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. For over 17 years, Martin’s Supermarkets, Inc. has supported the Christ Child Society’s “Clothe a Child” campaign raising over $175,000 in their stores by selling colorful paper dolls. The proceeds go directly to the purchase of new clothing for needy children of St. Joseph County.

Children ages 1-12, receive new winter clothing at the Christ Child Center located on Scott Street in South Bend. Each child must be referred by a local agency or school based on financial need. They receive a new wardrobe, which includes a winter coat, hat, mittens, underwear, socks, a long sleeved shirt or sweatshirt, a T-shirt, a pair of jeans and a pair of shoes. Christ Child also contributes to needy mothers with a bountiful layette containing items such as blankets, clothing and bottles as well as a book and a small stuffed animal.

For more information call Elizabeth Barrett at (574) 286-9047.
40 Days for Life in South Bend announces events

SOUTH BEND — The following events will take place in association with the 40 Days for Life campaign in South Bend:

- Friday, Sept. 30 — Sister Carmella of Corpus Christi Parish will lead the rosary at the prayer peninsular at 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 1 — Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble is the celebrant at the 8 a.m. Mass at the gazebo.
- Sunday, Oct. 2 — St. Joseph County Right to Life Prayer Chain organizes along Ironwood Road just south of SR 23 and north of Edison Road 2:30-3:30 p.m. People of all faiths come together to pray for the end of abortion.
- Saturday, Oct. 8 — Holy Cross Father Ed O’Connor is the celebrant at the 8 a.m. Mass at the gazebo.
- Saturday, Oct. 15 — America Needs Fatima rosary in the public square meets at noon at Darden Road and State Route 933. Parking in Christ the King Parish lot.

The vigil location, the “Prayer Peninsula,” is adjacent to the abortion site at 2010 Ironwood Circle in South Bend, less than a mile from the University of Notre Dame. Vigil hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the prayer peninsular. Individuals or organized groups are welcome to pray.

Avery to preside over state association

FORT WAYNE — Jane Avery, executive director of Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc., has been newly elected as president of Feeding Indiana’s Hungry, a statewide association of Feeding America affiliated food banks.

“We want to see Indiana become one of the safest states in the country,” said Avery. “And, I am confident that we can reach that goal with the public and private sectors working together. By that I mean food banks, the USDA in conjunction with its emergency food assistance program, the State of Indiana, farmers, businesses, state and federal legislators, our member agencies, individuals, and countless more all working together to feed our hungry neighbors.”

Avery added, “With 16 percent of all Hoosiers food insecure and one in four Hoosier children food insecure this goal is not only one that can be reached, it’s one that must be reached.”

Feeding Indiana’s Hungry, Inc. is the statewide association of Feeding America affiliated food banks (formerly America’s Second Harvest). The 11 member food banks serve more than 1,700 agencies in all 92 counties, providing emergency food assistance to Hoosiers in need.

USF’s Formula for Life funds food at Haitian orphanage

FORT WAYNE — When six biology, nursing and education students from the University of Saint Francis’ Formula for Life group set out to assess Haitian orphanages in the spring, they didn’t know what they’d find.

What they discovered, in at least one orphanage, renewed their spirits and refreshed their mission. A chubby, healthy, happy one-year-old had grown from a five-month-old so severely malnourished and dehydrated, her survival was in doubt.

USF’s student-led Formula for Life, a yearly run/walk event, raised funds to send infant formula and toddler cereal to her orphanage. After assessing the orphanage run by Father Andre Sylvestre, the group discovered a greater need in filling the nutritional needs of resident children up to age 8.

They decided to help — again. From funds accumulated from the four-year-old event, they will fund the $500 monthly food bill for the orphanage for a full year.

“This way, Father Andre will be able to tailor his food buy to cover the ages of the children,” said USF’s Dr. Amy Obringer, biology professor and Formula for Life faculty adviser.

“It won’t have to worry about being able to feed them and can focus on the structural needs and expansion of the orphanage to accommodate more children in need.”

Junior nursing student Amanda Pedro is the student leader for Formula for Life this year, and participated in the Haiti assessment trip.

“As a group we were speechless, initially, regarding the conditions in Haiti,” Pedro said. “Father Andre’s orphanage was one of the nicer, better-kept places we stayed. USF is one of his primary sources of food for the now 22 abandoned or orphaned young children he is caring for. The children ranged in age from one to seven years and they were absolutely precious. Several of the children we saw in Haiti were living on the streets, but Father Andre has given his children a chance. He attributed a large portion of that to his ‘benefactors,’ as he called the USF body, for their years of support.”

Those who wish to aid orphaned Haitian children can help maintain this vital food source by participating in Formula for Life on the USF campus in spring 2012. It’s a real formula for improving young

Fall Festival and open house at Victory Noll Center Oct. 2

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center celebrates the season with a fall festival and open house on Sunday, Oct. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. Held on the grounds of Victory Noll, the festival will feature activities for the whole family, including a scavenger hunt and a hayride. Refreshments will be available with doughnuts, popcorn and apple cider.

The facilities of Victory Noll Center will also be open for tours, and Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters will be on hand to talk with visitors.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

For more information visit the center’s website at www.olvm.org/vncenter.html.

Corrections

The listing of diocesan organizations influenced by St. Francis in the Sept. 25, 2011 issue of Today’s Catholic should not have listed the Franciscan Brothers Minor in Fort Wayne as an order.

The Sept. 18, 2011 issue of Today’s Catholic, Our Sunday Visitor provided the graphic for the “Mass Prayers and Responses” on page 2. The graphic is available as a pew card that is offered by Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades led a holy hour for vocations at St. Peter Catholic Church on Sunday, Sept. 25, using a traveling monstrance previously blessed by Blessed Pope John Paul II. The monstrance had been blessed on Nov. 24, 2004 — the Year of the Eucharist — for use in North America in praying for vocations to ordained and consecrated life.

HOLY HOUR MARKS FINAL STOP OF VOCATION MONSTRANCE

NOTRE DAME VITA INSTITUTE

JUNE 10-12, 2012

The Notre Dame Vita Institute is an intensive two-week summer academic program dedicated to educating participants about fundamental human life issues from the perspectives of biology, philosophy, theology, law, and social science. Participants are instructed by world-renowned scholars while being immersed in Notre Dame’s rich Catholic spirituality and strong community fellowship.

This integration of scholarship, spirituality, and community is the basis for Notre Dame’s initiative, Project Guadalupe, to form the next generation of pro-life leaders. Through rigorous coursework, ongoing dialogue, and introduction to community outreach programs, participants are challenged intellectually and equipped to transform our culture’s attitudes toward beginning of life issues. The application deadline is February 1, 2012.

NOTREDAMEFUNDUSF

Contact US:

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Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
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lifefund@nd.edu
NOTRE DAME — A commitment to strengthen Catholic primary and secondary education prompted celebrations of joy and hope at the University of Notre Dame on Sept. 16-17 with the dedication of a new home for the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE).

A series of events, including a blessing by University President Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, spotlighted the newly built Carole Sandner Hall.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided at a Dedication Mass and praised the passion for K-12 education that drives Notre Dame’s ACE program.

“ACE is just one example of how the University of Notre Dame serves the Church,” Bishop Rhoades said in remarks during the Friday evening Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. “One of our greatest needs in the Church in the U.S. today is the strengthening of our Catholic schools. We have to look with new vision and creativity at how not only to continue the wonderful system of Catholic education that we have, but to work hard to improve it, to grow it throughout our country.”

The ACE program, co-founded in 1993 by Holy Cross Fathers Timothy Scully and Sean McGraw, conducts graduate-level formation programs that prepare teachers and principals for Catholic schools. It stresses professional service, community and spirituality as “pillars” of sound formation.

The program has grown over the years in response to needs in dioceses around the country. Its professional services and partnership programs assist school leaders with administrative and strategic challenges. Its outreach initiatives are building a movement in support of Catholic schools and raising awareness of governmental programs that can increase access to Catholic schools among lower-income families.

Bishop Rhoades thanked the benefactors who financially supported ACE’s new home on the campus — a “beautiful new building” plus refurbished space that once housed Holy Cross sisters, many of whom were Catholic school teachers. The combination of office and gathering spaces is just steps away from the basilica, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Golden Dome.

Bishop Rhoades called Catholic schools a “very important mission in the Church” and highlighted the “responsibility we have of passing on the faith.”

Noting the need for Catholic universities to be close to bishops and the pope in service to the Church, Bishop Rhoades said ACE’s initiatives served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — particularly regarding Indiana’s new parental-choice laws and recent enrollment increases in at-risk Catholic schools serving the poor.

He commended ACE for its “Catholic School Advantage” campaign to double the percentage of Latino families sending their children to Catholic schools. He also said he has met a number of ACE teachers and has seen “their zeal for the mission” that incorporates “the education of the spirit, of the soul.”

Father Scully told the congregation that Bishop Rhoades has been “a source of encouragement and inspiration” to ACE, and he presented the bishop with an ACE T-shirt. Father Scully is director of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI), which includes ACE and shares the newly dedicated space.

The Dedication Mass was accompanied by several other ACE-related events on Sept. 16-17. Among the distinguished visitors on Saturday was the Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York.

Archbishop Dolan, touring the newly dedicated space, said ACE helps to affirm a bright future for Catholic schools. The Archdiocese of New York is a partner with ACE in the Catholic School Advantage campaign.

“I don’t know of any place that gives more hope and promise than here, and this beautiful building is an icon of that,” he told an ACE gathering, adding a blessing and a call to “keep up the good work.”

Archbishop Dolan later celebrated Mass in the basilica following the Notre Dame vs. Michigan State football game.

At another dedication event, Gov. Bob McDonnell of Virginia, who is a Notre Dame graduate, called ACE “a way to help other Catholic schools to grow and thrive — and we all know how important it is to have thriving Catholic schools, particularly in inner city areas where there’s great need for alternatives in the system.”

ACE and Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI) together are playing a major supportive role in the 2011-2012 Notre Dame Forum, a yearlong series of events exploring K-12 education with the overall theme, “Reimagining School: To Nurture the Soul of a Nation.” Information about the events can be found at www.forum.nd.edu. Details about Notre Dame’s K-12 education initiatives are at www.iei.nd.edu.
Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was celebrant for an all-school Mass, then visited classrooms at Queen of Angels School recently, much to the delight of students and staff.

“I’m so happy to be here today,” he said. “It’s one of my favorite things, to be here with my children.”

Bishop Rhoades traveled a lot, to study the Bible stories they’d be studying, like the tales of Noah’s ark and Jonah in the belly of the whale. When one little girl showed him the cross she was wearing, he compared it to the large cross he wears and said, “It reminds us to talk to Jesus.”

Mary McIvor’s class was studying the Old Testament and especially added, Abraham, who was known to be strong in his faith.

Eighth-grade students in Mary Jo Parrish’s class were learning the basics of the religion. The books of the Holy Spirit were illustrated by song, the Ten Commandments, by verse. Bishop Rhoades reminded them that it takes courage to live their faith, especially in today’s culture. He reiterated the message of his homily. It’s all about bearing witness to our faith. That’s where we really find peace and joy.”

“Who was your favorite saint?” Bishop Rhoades asked. “John the Apostle, the beloved disciple,” he said. “They didn’t run from the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified, and he was the one who took care of Mary after Jesus’ death. He called John his “friend in heaven.”

Each classroom that Bishop Rhoades visited was especially decorated in celebration of the occasion. One boasted a “Welcome Bishop” banner and all rooms displayed his picture. One class gave him a card with all the students had signed. They were quite sure that would guarantee the bishop would remember all their names at his next visit, a comment that made him smile.

Queen of Angels Principal Anne Miller is proud of her small school, the student population, she said, is that no one is overlooked and each child receives the attention he needs. They boast a very family-oriented environment, she said.

And more may be in the offing. On Saturday, Oct. 1, the school and church will partner to host a hog roast for the parish and community. The event includes a memorial Mass for all deceased parishioners and draws a huge crowd annually. “It’s a wonderful community event,” remarked Miller.

Bishop Rhoades’ day at Queen of Angels culminated in a luncheon shared with the teaching and administrative staff. Upon reflection, Principal Miller felt that the bishop’s visit was a great success and that her small school has much to be proud of. “We’re glad he got to share that with us.”

Above, the exterior of Queen of Angels School is shown. At the school Mass, top right, Father Gary Sigler, pastor, and Deacon John Hilger assist at Mass. Students are so comfortable and everyone cares for one another,” said Miller.

Queen of Angels School
1600 W. State Blvd.,
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
(260) 483-8214
Principal: Ann Miller
Pastor: Father Gary Sigler
Enrollment: 244 students in pre-school through grade 8
Staff, faculty: 26
Mascot: Royals
Web site: www.queenofangelsschool.com
Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass, visits Queen of Angels School

Bishop Rhoades visits classrooms at Queen of Angels School.

Bishop Rhoades leads Queen of Angels students in prayer.

Queen of Angels students are eager to answer Bishop Rhoades' question.
Life Matters: The Death Penalty

We live in a culture of death: a culture torn by abortion and euthanasia, by wanton violence, war, murder and hatred. Life is treated as if it were cheap, and many are the threats to the dignity of human life. Yet we believe that all human life is from God, and He alone is the master of life and of death. Blessed John Paul II made the defense of the dignity of all human life the centerpiece of his pontificate.

The death penalty presents itself as a complex moral issue because of the apparently conflicting demands of justice on one hand and charity on the other. Some crimes are so serious and so heinous that they seem to cry out for the ultimate punishment of death. And yet the Gospel message is forever one of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of preciousness and eternal life to all. That is why the death penalty no longer serves a useful purpose in protecting the sanctity of human life. Perhaps once society clearly has a right to defend itself from aggressors, both internal (by means of war as a last resort) and internal (such as murderers, serial killers, terrorists and those guilty of treason). The question for a Christian is not so much whether there has been validity for the death penalty, but whether it should or should not be imposed today.

And today it is clear that the death penalty no longer serves a useful purpose in protecting the sanctity of human life. Perhaps once it was the only way society could protect itself from those who would destroy the life of others, but today in most modern nations, judicial and penal systems have improved so much that they effectively remove further danger to innocent people by incarcerating the perpetrators of criminal violence. Imprisonment is effective in removing the offender from society. Importantly, it allows time for repentance and rehabilitation. And the one sure result of executing prisoners is to make us as a people more vengeful — seeking retribution and satisfying our outrage at the violent crime by more violence.

As Christians we are asked to visit the imprisoned, minister to their needs and encourage them to repent and change. We should never lose our conviction that even the worst offenders are our brothers and sisters in Christ, who offers forgiveness and eternal life to all. That process of reform takes time, often quite a long time. The death penalty takes that opportunity for conversion away.

The nearer a soul is truly united to God, the more its sensibilities are increased to every being of His Creation; much more to those whom it is bound to love by the tenderest and most endearing ties.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH
FORT WAYNE

St. Joseph Parish - Bluffton

May the example of the patron of our parish, as a protector of The Holy Infant, and The Holy Family, advance the cause of Pro Life.
prone to crime and violence. We don’t fix those problems by executing people. The death penalty just aggravates the injustices we have not yet been able to overcome.

Despite the virtues of our justice system, we have to honestly admit it also has serious limitations. With scandalous frequency, people on death row have later been shown to be innocent of the crime for which they were convicted. DNA testing and other conclusive forms of evidence have resulted in the exonerations of well over 100 death row inmates. Nor can we overlook the fact that persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities are put to death, despite their lesser degrees of culpability. But the death penalty once applied is irrevocable, and human life cannot be given back once eliminated.

As time goes on our society seems increasingly reluctant to impose the death penalty, as it is imposed far less frequently now. There seems to be a growing consciousness that there is something wrong about using violence to discourage violence, that it serves no good purpose. We would be better as a people if we were to end it altogether. Many families of victims, too, are hopeful of seeing an end to the death penalty, feeling that no punishment can bring back their loved one, and that it is better to forgive and hope for a change on the part of the criminal.

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We have liberty, but liberty only makes us free when we obey the great laws of the universe. To be really free, to be civilized, we must not only exercise our right to choose, but we must choose only that which is the right choice, and the right choice is always the choice of life.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish
New Carlisle

Our parish is dedicated to

The Mother of Our Saviour
The Star of Hope
The Comfort of the Afflicted

And the one chosen to guide us through the sorrows of life, including the agony brought about by abortion.

Queen of Peace, be with us.

Saint Mary Parish - Huntington
Restoring a culture of life

BY LISA EVERETT

Y es, dear friends, God loves us. This is the great truth of our life; it is what makes everything else meaningful. We are not the product of blind chance or absurdity; instead our life originates as part of a loving plan of God.

Pope Benedict XVI spoke these tender words to hundreds of thousands of young people in Madr — during the Saturday evening prayer vigil for World Youth Day. His assurance that God’s love is the origin of our life is something which we would all do well to remember during Respect Life month, for this conviction is not only the foundation of our faith, but also the cornerstone of the culture of life.

Ten days before Pope Benedict spoke these words, a chilling article titled “The Two-Minus-One Pregnancy” appeared in The New York Times Magazine. In it, author Ruth Padawer describes the rising incidence of “reducing” healthy twin pregnancies to a singleton, simply because the mother wants one baby, not two.

She cites the case of Jenny, age 45 and 14 weeks pregnant with twins after six years of fertility bills. Lying on the exam table as the obstetrician inserted the needle into her abdomen to sp — one of the heat waves, Jenny offered this rationale: “If I had conceived these twinnaturally, I wouldn’t have reduced this pregnancy, because you feel like if there’s a natural order, then you don’t want to disturb it. But we created this child in such an artificial manner — in a test tube, done by a donor, having the embryo placed into me — and somehow, making a decision about how many to carry seemed to be just an an — thing."

This candid remark makes abundantly clear the connection that the Church pointed out in “Donum vitae,” the 1988 document published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith under then-prefect Cardinal Ratzinger, who later, of course, became Pope Benedict. When we take into our own hands the power to bestow life, we can too easily take it and sacrifice the lives of both babies, one by one. It is what the Church has always taught, and the reason we are asked to receive in love; not something we own or which we are owed, but rather, a gift from a loving God, who has a plan for every person He creates.

That many people have rejected this truth is a sad commentary on our nation’s abortion rates, including the trend toward “reducing” twin pregnancies, but also in the proliferation of artificial reproductive practices such as IVF, in

In centuries-old buildings, some Vatican workers have techie paradise

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Looking at the centuries-old buildings and palaces, not many people would know that the Vatican has become a techie paradise, a wonderland of modern equipment and know-how.

For instance, the Vatican Library is using NASA technology to digitize its treasures, according to one of the latest facts listed in the “The Activity of the Holy See, 2010,” a yearbook published by the Vatican in September.

Called Flexible Image Transport System, the system that is standard among the world’s astronomers for storing, sending and manipulating images.

The library is using the format to digitize some 80,000 manuscripts because the files will be readable long into the future, avoiding the risk of the technology becoming obsolete, the yearbook said.

The Vatican Library reopened in 2010 completely revamped with Wi-Fi for scholars and visitor badges rigged with RFID tracking chips. The radio frequency identification chips are already embedded in many of the library’s open holdings so volumes can be found and re-shelved more easily.

The Vatican’s 1,343-page yearbook for 2010 is filled with reports on the day-to-day activities, as well as special projects begun or completed by every Vatican congregation, counsel, commission and office.

The book says that the Swiss Guards, equipped with historic halberds, are now trained in the latest personal defense techniques.

All 110 soldiers took a course last year in the Monodnock Defensive Tactics System, self-defense strategy training. The course is called the Standard Method of Fire Control and came after 2009, 2008 and 2007 saw incidents of people disrupting barricades and hurling objects at the pope.

Vatican Radio is often on the forefront of experimenting with new technologies, and 2010 was no exception. The yearbook said the radio began switching to new digital audio broadcasting methods called DRM, D-DAB and T-DMB, saying the systems “may become powerful channels of communication in the future.”

The Vatican Radio launched its Twitter feed in April 2010 to make the job go smoothly. The pope’s summer villa in Castel Gandolfo got a hydraulic elevator that can carry up to nine people or 1,500 pounds.

But the trend toward modernity doesn’t mean everything has been modernized. About a dozen nuns who are members of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master work the switchboards 24 hours a day and last year they handled 315,160 calls.

The altars, confessional stalls and pews in St. Peter’s Basilica are still dusted and cleaned daily by hand.

Artisans and restorers still rely on traditional materials and techniques when creating, repairing or restoring decorations, tapestries and ancient manuscripts.

And the pope’s cows at Castel Gandolfo provide not just organic milk, but also the natural fertilizer for the papal farm, the yearbook said.

Amanure spreader was even purchased in 2010 to make the job go smoothly.

Respond to the call of discipleship

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mt 21:33-43

The first section of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend’s liturgy with its first reading. The Book of Isaiah is outstanding in its eloquence. It is one of the most splendid works of literature in the Scriptures.

The author of this section of Isaiah was very disappointed with his people. At the time, the people were lax in their religious observance, at least in the prophet’s mind, and certainly their leaders were flouting with neighboring pagan states and allowing the pagan states and allowing the pagan

He speaks as God, in the first person. What more can God do? His love is seen everywhere. Yet, the people sinned. They sinned against their own perils.

The second reading this weekend, the Church presents the Epistle to the Philippians. Philippi was an important military post in the Roman Empire, located in modern Greece, a thoroughly pagan community. Christians were outside the mainstream, to say the least.

To encourage and reassure Philippian Christians, this epistle urges uncompromising faithfulness to God. St. Matthew’s Gospel is the source of the third reading. As has been the case on other recent weekends, the selection for this weekend is a parable. Also, once again, the setting is a discussion between Jesus and priests and elders.

The landowner is a “landowner,” who of course is God. This landowner has planted a vineyard. Vineyards often were used in the Old Testament to describe the nation of Israel, as in the case of the reading this week from Isaiah.

The owner protected the vineyard by surrounding it with a hedge. He allowed tenants to use the vineyard, although he retained ownership, and then he went on a journey, leaving tenants to tend the vineyard.

The tenants decided to: First, the vineyard belongs to God. Those who occupy the vineyard merely are tenants.

Second, the tenants are unworthy of the owner’s trust. They defy all the accepted rules of responsibility and propriety. So, in due course, the landowner calls his tenants to collect the yield. The tenants kill these servants.

The owner sends more servants. They too are killed. Finally, he sends his son, who himself is killed. The final result is that the owner drives the tenants from the vineyard, not in an unjust rage, however. The tenants brought their plight upon themselves.

Reflection

The Church restates once more its call to discipleship. To furnish detail and to give guidance, this weekend’s lesson is not in the end about doom and destruction. While it makes clear that salvation is not forced upon us, it also insists that God gives every opportunity, and aid, to us in enabling us to seek our salvation.

Still, the choice belongs to us individually. We must place ourselves within God’s plan. We must obey God. We must live as God has taught us. Only in such obedience will we find salvation.

First Isaiah and Matthew are very instructive. By disobeying, harming, God, we bring chaos upon ourselves. God does not hurl thunderbolts of anger and revenge at us. Instead, we crucify ourselves each other.

We are with God, or we are not. We decide.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 5:7-1 Ps 90:5; 12, 16, 19 Phil 4:6-9 Mk 21:33-43
Monday: Jon 1:3-2, 11 (Ps) Jon 2:1-2,8,9
Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 130:1-4, 7-8 Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11 Ps 86:3-6, 9-10 Lk 11:1-4
Friday: Jl 1:13-15:2-1 Ps 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16 Lk 11:15-26
Saturday: Jl 4:1-21 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Lk 11:27-28

major overhaul of its telecommu-nications infrastructure began two years ago is proceeding successfully. A high-speed fiber optic network is being installed over some 250 miles, and the Vatican telephone system is using Voice over Internet Protocol for the delivery of voice and multimedia over the Internet.

The Vatican’s technical services reported they installed a new 1.5 megawatt/hour thermal heating/cooling station and replaced old boilers from the 1970s with new pressurized boilers for high-efficiency heating.

They also reported “positive” experiences from its rooftop solar panels and high-tech solar collectors, which help heat and cool Vatican buildings.

But some of the technological improvements listed in the yearbook feel more like it’s 1999, not the 21st century.

For example, smoke detectors, fire alarms and high-resolution surveillance cameras that switch on in case of fire were installed in St. Peter’s Basilica’s sacristy and choir chapel. These two areas are particularly prone to fire, the book said, because of their wood furnishings, flammable materials and the use of candles and incense.

Air-conditioning was expanded to more areas of the Vatican, and the use of ozone-depleting refrigerants was reduced.

Up-to-code electrical wiring and new lighting were installed throughout Vatican City State and its extra-territorial properties like the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo.

The pope’s summer villa in Castel Gandolfo got a hydraulic elevator that can carry up to nine people or 1,500 pounds.

But the trend toward modernity doesn’t mean everything has been modernized.

About a dozen nuns who are members of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master work the switchboards 24 hours a day and last year they handled 315,160 calls.

The altars, confessional stalls and pews in St. Peter’s Basilica are still dusted and cleaned daily by hand.

Artisans and restorers still rely on traditional materials and techniques when creating, repairing or restoring decorations, tapestries and ancient manuscripts.

And the pope’s cows at Castel Gandolfo provide not just organic milk, but also the natural fertilizer for the papal farm, the yearbook said. A manure spreader was even purchased in 2010 to make the job go smoothly.
Entertainment fit for TV

I have some suggestions for any TV producers who may be open to ideas. With American Catholics numbering around 68 million, there’d be a market for something that these parents can relate to — what do you think?

First up, in the genre of “American Pickers,” a TV series that has hosts scouring garages, basements and barns for hidden treasure, I’m proposing something similar. I would call it “Slim Pickin’s.”

In my made-up TV show, the hosts would simply go into the houses of mothers who have a lot of children. The challenge, of course, would be to find something to wear. As hosts hunt for clothes suitable to put on, the contestant mom might realize her (only) pretty new blouse is in her teenaged daughter’s closet. The host would refuse to enter there because his contract doesn’t allow for situations of high risk — and everyone knows that teenage girls’ closets are war zones. Moms across the United States would nod in familiarity while watching the show, feeling relieved that their experiences are normal.

Singles would be intrigued to find out that some people don’t own business casual clothes, or even a suit. Of course, “Slim Pickin’s” is a reality show.

Back-to-back with this might be another show for Moms — “Pick it Up.” In this show, hosts enter various children’s bedrooms and attempt to find, in the mess, an assortment of items — lunch money, the other shoe, a crumpled permission slip due yesterday, library books, a hairbrush or an escaped guinea pig. Then the children would pick things up, find the lost items and neaten the room, while mothers sit in comfy chairs with cups of hot tea and relax. No, of course, this one is not a reality show.

LIFE

continued from page 14

which “spare” embryos are either frozen and destroyed, and in which “selective reduction” is routinely practiced given the multiple pregnancies which often result. It is also reflected in research which shows that the vast majority of parents who find out that their unborn child has a genetic condition like Down Syndrome decide on abortion, a fact that was not lost on the author of “The Two-Minus-One Pregnancy”: “What drives that decision is not just concern over the quality of life for the future child but also the emotional, financial or social difficulty for parents of having a child with extra needs. As with reducing two healthy fetuses to one, the underlying premise is the same: this is not what I want for my life.”

To receive a child as a gift from God often equates to what we let go of our own dreams and desires, and be willing to rearrange our lives to make room for him or her. Way back in 1995, the bishops of the United States called us to just this kind of fidelity in their stirring and poignant reflection, Faithful for Life: “When a family lives in fidelity it is a place of refuge and dignity, a place where each member is accepted, respected and honored precisely because he or she is a person; and if any member is in greater need, the care which he or she receives is all the more intense and attentive (‘Evangelium Vitae,’ §92). If it becomes each one for himself or herself, then instead of being the source, school and standard for fidelity to neighbor, the family can become the scene of its harshest violations. The home becomes the place where, when you knock, they no longer have to let you in. To live in fidelity we have to rearrange our lives, yield control and forfeit some choices. To evade the full burden of putting ourselves at the disposal of those we belong to, to allot them only the slack in our own agendas and not what they require, is to practice desertion by other means. ... Many of the critical moments in our daily lives are ones that we rise to meet responsibilities given to us, not chosen by us. This is true of our obligation to be stewards of the world’s resources. It is equally true of the obligations which bind us in love to our families. We are bound to our children, not because we chose them, but because we were given them: simply because they are ‘our children.’”

This is the only attitude that will restore a culture of life in our nation, and it begins with each of us living this kind of fidelity within our own families. A recent essay by a husband and father in another national publication, The Wall Street Journal, reflected in a refreshing way one family’s striving to live this call. In “Embracing Ezra,” Los Angeles journalist Tom Fields-Meyer writes movingly about his son with special needs. In one particularly poignant passage, he recalls a counselor suggesting to him and his wife that they needed to let themselves grieve for the child before getting in the car. This show is an action adventure.

“The Price is Right” — Dad gets a limited income and tries to negotiate essentials for the government because he is now in a higher tax bracket.

“All in the Family” — the kid gets sick and well, you know — “Gunsmoke” — It’s the wife’s sister’s wedding on the same day as an NFL playoff. Who will win? — “What’s My Line?” — Parents stumble over answering questions like “Is there a Santa?” and “Where is the Big Cheese?”

“T.V. Guide” — Children forget to use the potty.

“Highway Patrol” — Dad takes a second job to afford the new payments to the happy two ... this “Odd Couple” ... do they ever manage to ever get out of the van for Mass? — “Wheel of Fortune” — Dad and wife attend Mass regularly, treat their TV for political purposes or bad programming. We can propose programming alternatives and change that of course. But we can also just turn off the TV. I say, with lives as entertaining as ours, who needs it?

Theresa Thomas can be reached at TheresaThomas@EverydayCatholic.com.

Theresa A. Thomas

EVEN DAY CATHOLIC

• “Battlestar Galactica” — What happens when a teen from a traditional Catholic family tries to sneak in the van for Mass wearing flip flops and shorts.
• And last but not least, “The Odd Couple” — Armand the backdrop of a secular suburban neighborhood, a happily practicing Catholic husband and wife attend Mass regularly, treat each other with love and respect, hold rosary groups in their home and have fun together. They reject birth control and enjoy the children they are blessed with. Neighbors can’t figure out how or why these happy two ... this “Odd Couple” do it, until the end when they all convert and find their happiness, too.

“I’m being silly, of course, but life can often be one entertaining situation after another. Being a good Catholic is serious stuff but approaching it with lightheartedness is a way to cope well and even enjoy your life. Some people choose to ditch their TV for political purposes or bad programming. We can propose programming alternatives and change that of course. But we can also just turn off the TV. I say, with lives as entertaining as ours, who needs it?”

LAWLANDER

PLANTED

WINE PRESS

TOWER

RENTED

KILLED

PRODUCE

TREATED

STONE

DECEASED

SWEAT

NATIVE

KINGDOM

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HIS SON

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V I Y A W E M A S K W L

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E W H E J D E T A E R T

R E D D E T C E J R H

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S C R I P T U R E S E A R C H

Gospel for October 2, 2011

Matthew 21:33-43

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: when the landowner is rejected. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

A. when the landowner is rejected. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Based on Scripture Readings: Is 5: 1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43 and Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19, 20; Mt 22:14 and Is 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

ACROSS

1. Southwest by west

2. Clock time

3. Heat unit

4. Tropical island

5. French “yes”

6. Ventilates

7. Adjacent

8. Recede

9. Eye infection

10. Office furniture

11. Tinotinotomene

12. Herodians knew Jesus spoke

20. World Economic Forum (abbr.)

22. Soft cheese

24. Jesus did to moneychangers’ tables

25. 1st east northeast

27. Soft cheese

29. 1st east northeast

30. Treasured

32. World Economic

33. Franciscan

35. Blessed ... Mary

36. Wild grapes

37. Inscription on coin

39. Pistil

41. Holy Family fled into Egypt

42. Expression

43. ... you destroyed our death

44. Speak endlessly

45. Take to court

47. That (possessive)

49. Jesus took during storm

Theresa Thomas is the co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

October 2, 2011

C O M M E N T A R Y

The CrossWord

October 2, 9, and 16, 2011

48. Easter symbol

50. Attorney (abbr.)

51. Behave State

52. Denver Intern’s Airport

53. Cluck

54. Sixth sense

55. Late night show

56. Retained

DOWN

1. Crafty

2. Large car

3. Friend made Watchtower

4. Vinyard product

5. Poet Edgar Allen

6. Cyrus did to mediums

7. Dalai Lama’s state

8. Adam did to apple

9. Chance

10. Ulliate

11. Petition prayer

12. Guests gathered from

20. Ostracized

23. Free of

24. King’s son did

25. East northeast

26. Popular president’s initials

27. Except

29. Desert

30. Vine press container

31. Winving

32. Large airport

33. ... , Francisco

35. Blessed ... Mary

39. Wild grapes

40. Tinotinotomene

41. Holy Family fled into Egypt

42. Expression

44. Speak endlessly

45. Take to court

46. That (possessive)

49. Jesus took during storm

Answer Key can be found on page 19
LIFE
†
...IS GOD’S GIFT TO US.
What we do with it
is our gift to God.
Respect Life
In all its stages.
Holy Family Parish
South Bend

LIFE Runners takes footing at Notre Dame

BY FRED EVERTT

SOUTH BEND — Pat Castle is a man on a mission. A graduate from the Air Force Academy in 1993 and currently a lieutenant colonel at Scott Air Force Base near St. Louis, Castle found time for one additional mission in his busy career and family life. In 2008, he founded LIFE Runners for two different groups: those who love to run and would like to become more involved in the pro-life cause, as well as those who are involved in the pro-life cause and would like to learn how to run a marathon. He’s been coaching a growing group of men and women ever since.

This June, Castle made his way to the University of Notre Dame to participate in the summer Vita Institute organized by the Center for Ethics and Culture. As the pro-life institute would last for two weeks, Castle knew he would have time to begin training a new group of would be pro-life marathoners. In short time, Castle has recruited a Notre Dame student runner, Matt Povlock, not only to participate but to also lead a Notre Dame chapter of the group.

One morning at Notre Dame, Castle and a group of seven were stretching and preparing for a run. Among them were novice runners, but others were already very experienced. Heather McCleery, Notre Dame program manager of the Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutics Initiative, has already finished six marathons. She is planning to run a LIFE Runner this October in the Wineglass Marathon in New York. “I’m trying to break the three-hour mark,” she said. When asked about being a LIFE Runner, she responded that she was happy to be able to add a witness of her beliefs to her running.

Anne Peterson, a Notre Dame philosophy grad student, began running in her high school years and hopes to run her first marathon with a group of LIFE Runners at Kansas City in October. She has long been involved in the pro-life cause and appreciates this program as another way to become even more involved.

Rosemary Kelly, a Notre Dame junior in geoscience, believes that “the best thing about Life Runners is that it is a collision of two favorite loves: running and the pro-life cause. I definitely want to do a half-marathon at Kansas City and maybe even a whole marathon. I run around the lakes at least four times a week. I’m definitely excited to have a pro-life cause to do that for. I think it’s great that in a Catholic environment there are people who will take running and join it to the idea of Catholic identity.”

When Castle was asked what keeps him going, he said, “I do it for the unborn and their mothers. I try to make my running into a prayer. It might seem unrealistic, but it’s my best prayer because when I am running and feeling weak, and my strength starts to dissipate, I reach out to God and ask Him to fill me. So, that’s the time that I pray to God. It gets me up in the morning.”

When Castle was asked if he ever watched the movie “Chariots of Fire” that tells the story of two very different British men, Harold Abrahams and Eric Liddell, who are preparing to run in the 1924 Paris Summer Olympics, he said he had, and offered this insight: “The one man, after winning the medal, that was it for him. The other saw it as part of his journey (with God). He had an eternal perspective.”

More information on LIFE Runners is available at their website www.run.lifegroup413.org. To get involved with the ND Chapter, contact Chapter Champion Matt Povlock at mpovlock@nd.edu.

DEATH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

People instinctively know it is better to let the offender remain in prison and, hopefully over time, repent of his crime and change his life. To that end, the goal of Christian prison ministry was beautifully expressed by Pope Benedict XVI:

“Chaplains and their collaborators are called to be heralds of God’s infinite compassion and forgiveness... They are entrusted with the weighty task of helping the incarcerated rediscover a sense of purpose so that, with God’s grace, they can reform their lives, be reconciled with their families and friends, and, insofar as possible, assume the responsibilities and duties which will enable them to conduct upright and honest lives.” — Address to the International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care, Sept. 6, 2007.

This is the way of Christian mercy and reconciliation, and a challenge to all who call themselves Christian.

MISHAWAKA — The northern Indiana blue-grey autumn sky signals that football season is in full swing and had two determined opponents looking for their first victory of the season.

The St. Anthony (St. Joseph, South Bend-St. Pius) Panthers would field a squad that had the league’s leading receiving combination of Tony Carmola and Pat Sandor, and they would match up against St. Matthew (St. Jude/Our Lady of Hungary)’s single-wing offense that featured misdirection and a huge offensive line. St. Anthony’s first possession started with an aerial assault from Blazer skipper, Kevin Sandor. “We decided to throw first and make the defense react and that’s exactly what we did,” said Sandor.

The Panthers again went to the air, but the Carmola pass found its mark in the hands of Blazer defender Dylan Farwell giving the orange-and-black clad covey the ball on their own 40-yard line. The Panthers wasted no time in getting back to work again using their running backs to drive down the field. Then with fourth down on the four-yard line, Carmola hit the ball in the air to his lengthy target Sandor for the go-ahead score. St. Anthony, 14-12, with 4:03 left in the game.

The Blazer defense would not go away though and after some hard-fought yardage, catastrophe hit the team as the ball squatted loose and was recovered by the Panthers with 2:34 on the clock.

St. Anthony stayed on the ground eating away the clock and yardage and with 1:35 left, and fourth down and two from the three, Carmola cradled the ball on a quarterback sneak and scored sealing the deal for the Panthers. Credit’s kick was true, 20-12, final.

“They have a unique offense,” commented St. Anthony’s skipper, Kevin Sandor. “We decided that we just needed to pound the ball and set up our play action routes and our kids responded.”

“I thought that our special team play of Matt Nidaifer and the kickoff of Credi kept St. Matt’s staving deep in their own end, and the points after conversions were huge,” added Sandor. “I’m really happy with our team and this should help us going into our showdown with Mishawaka Catholic Saints next week.”

“I was happy with our kids. They did a good job and gave great effort, but we are still making mistakes at critical junctures of the game. If we can correct that, we can become very good at playoff time,” said Ernst. “We have 24 seventh graders and we are going in the right direction. Our offensive line — PJ Ernst, Dillon Heimann, Austin Szmanda, Rogelio Rodela and Ryan Quinn really battled in the trenches today.”

In the other game, the Holy Cross/Christ the King Crusaders upended the West Side Catholic Cardinals, 34-0.

Brendan Chappell-Cormartie scored on a 60-yard run as well as a 12-yard interception return. Mark Madden connected with Connor Gentry on a 70-yard TD strike and added a 20-yard run to paydirt. Jake Rolinski scored on a 35-yard scamper and Cameron Gallagher booted two conversion efforts.

This weekend West Side Catholic travels to Saint Joseph’s High School to take on the St. Matthew Blazers at 1 p.m. The St. Anthony squad will be at Marian High School’s Otokoki Field to battle the Mishawaka Catholic Saints, also at 1 p.m.
St. Jude, St. Charles cross-country Cardegles make progress

BY MICHELLE CASTILEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In Catholic Youth League (CYO) cross-country action, the Cardegles of St. Jude and St. Charles started their 2011 season off and running in several races to date. Coach Dan Kaufman reports that his teams are making good progress. At this point in their schedule, the boys’ team has a record of 45-31, and the girls’ have compiled a 57-18 start.

At the New Haven Classic, the Cardegles girls finished an impressive third place in the large-school division, which listed 24 teams. The girls had an outstanding performance finishing sixth out of 26 teams with all seven girls running and the rest of the team at the West Noble Invitational in Ligonier, and the rest of the team at the Huntington Catholic Invite. In that meet the girls won both the varsity and junior varsity titles, while the boys finished third to winner St. Vincent and runner up St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth.

The JV boys were second to St. Vincent. At West Noble, which included many of the top middle school teams in northern Indiana, the girls had an outstanding performance finishing sixth of 27 teams with all seven girls running a season best time. The boys finished 11th out of 28 teams with each runner also running a personal best time for the season.

Individually, Abbey Beilage was the top Cardegle finisher at 17th in 12:09, while Megan was 32nd in 12:29. They are now the fourth and 10th fastest girls respectively in Cardegle history.

Tretter, the eighth fastest Cardegle ever, and Malone, the seventh all-time fastest runner, were 21st (10:52) and 23rd (10:56) for the boys.

The other varsity girls included Lothamer, Nitza, McMasters, Conroy and Rachel Gibson.

In another highly competitive meet at Indian Springs the girls finished 10th and the boys 13th out of 26 teams. The Carroll Middle School Invite remains and the Cardegles Invitational is slated for Oct. 6 this season.

The Cardegle boys were sixth overall claiming two finishers in the top 25 — Bryson Tretter (eighth) and Blake Malone (10th) at the New Haven Classic cross-country meet. Abbey Beilage crossed the line in 10th place for the girls in the New Haven Classic. The team photo is shown above.
Considering your burial needs now will save your loved ones from making those difficult decisions.

At the Catholic Cemetery, we understand that death is often more difficult for the living than for the faithfully departed. We invite you to consider your burial needs thoughtfully and without pressure now, before the need arises, relieving others of those difficult decisions.

Not only will pre-arranging your burial ensure that your final wishes will be honored, but for a limited time the Catholic Cemetery is offering 10% off in-ground grave spaces, opening/closing and vaults or $250 off single crypt spaces (above ground entombment) or $75 off single niche (cremains) spaces.

Call Larry Fisher at 260.426.2044 for an appointment or visit the Cemetery Office at 3500 Lake Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Catholic Cemetery
Association of Fort Wayne

www.catholic-cemetery.org

Promotion ends December 1, 2011

Considering your burial needs now will save your loved ones from making those difficult decisions.
BY BONNIE ELMERSON

FORT WAYNE — Though the structure itself is large and imposing, “the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception fits snugly in my heart,” said longtime parishioner Patty Martone.

Martone’s sentiments surely reflected those of the hundreds of cathedral parishioners who gathered to worship at the 11:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, Sept. 25, and assemble afterward on the cathedral grounds for dinner and entertainment. Greetings and fond remembrances were exchanged by all at the commemorative event.

Parishioner Carolyn O’Rourke, coordinator of the day’s festivities, was pleased. “It’s gone very well. Everyone said yes when asked to help,” she said, making her job easier.

Ninety-two-year-old Mary Gebhard was hoping to share with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades pictures of her daughter’s wedding at the cathedral more than 50 years ago. And church secretary Janice Buck said, “It’s been wonderful, very enjoyable.”

Sister Helen, who for 175 years here in this parish

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets the faithful after the Mass marking the 175th anniversary of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Fort Wayne on Sept. 25. (Photo: Tom Marti)